

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Substitute the following claims for the pending claims having the same numbers, and add the following new claims.

1-56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) ~~The method according to Claim 56, wherein the orienting step further comprises~~

A method of installing a latch profile in a tubular string in a subterranean well,
the method comprising the steps of:

positioning the tubular string in the subterranean well;
then conveying a latch structure into the tubular string;
orienting the latch structure rotationally relative to the tubular string, including
rotationally orienting a muleshoe of the latch structure relative to the tubular string; and
then expanding the latch structure outward in the tubular string.

58. (currently amended) ~~The method according to Claim 56, wherein the orienting step further comprises~~

A method of installing a latch profile in a tubular string in a subterranean well,
the method comprising the steps of:

positioning the tubular string in the subterranean well;
then conveying a latch structure into the tubular string;

orienting the latch structure rotationally relative to the tubular string, including
rotationally orienting a laterally inclined surface of the latch structure relative to the
tubular string; and
then expanding the latch structure outward in the tubular string.

59-67. (canceled)

68. (new) A method of installing a latch profile in a tubular string in a subterranean well, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning the tubular string in the subterranean well; and

then forming the latch profile in the tubular string, the forming step including:

conveying the latch profile into the tubular string in an expandable structure, rotationally orienting the expandable structure relative to the tubular string, and outwardly expanding the expandable structure in the tubular string, the expanding step including deforming the tubular string, thereby recessing the expandable structure into the tubular string.

69. (new) The method according to claim 68, wherein the deforming step further comprises plastically deforming the tubular string.

70. (new) The method according to claim 68, further comprising the step of bonding the expandable structure to the tubular string.

71. (new) The method according to claim 68, wherein the forming step further comprises forming the latch profile so that a minimum internal dimension of the profile is substantially equal to or greater than a minimum internal diameter of the tubular string.

72. (new) The method according to claim 68, further comprising the step of cementing the tubular string in the well prior to the forming step.

73. (new) The method according to claim 68, wherein the expanding step is performed after the rotationally orienting step.

74. (new) The method according to claim 68, wherein the rotationally orienting step further comprises rotationally orienting a laterally inclined surface formed on the expandable structure relative to the tubular string.

75. (new) A method of installing a latch profile in a tubular string in a subterranean well, the method comprising the steps of:
conveying the latch profile in an expandable structure into the tubular string;
rotationally orienting the expandable structure relative to the tubular string; and
then plastically deforming the tubular string, thereby installing the latch profile in the tubular string.

76. (new) The method according to claim 75, wherein the deforming step further comprises outwardly expanding the expandable structure.

77. (new) The method according to claim 75, wherein the deforming step further comprises outwardly displacing a sidewall of the tubular string, thereby recessing the expandable structure into the sidewall.

78. (new) The method according to claim 75, wherein the latch profile is an orienting profile, and further comprising the step of engaging an apparatus with the profile after the deforming step, thereby rotationally orienting the apparatus relative to the tubular string.

79. (new) The method according to claim 75, further comprising the step of engaging an apparatus with the latch profile after the deforming step, thereby securing the apparatus relative to the tubular string, the deforming and engaging steps being performed in a single trip into the tubular string.

80. (new) A method of installing a latch profile in a tubular string in a subterranean well, the method comprising the steps of:
positioning the tubular string in the subterranean well;
then conveying the latch profile in an expandable structure into the tubular string;

then rotationally orienting the expandable structure relative to the tubular string;
and

then expanding the latch structure outward in the tubular string.

81. (new) The method according to claim 80, wherein the expanding step further comprises forming a seal between the expandable structure and the tubular string.

82. (new) The method according to claim 80, wherein the expanding step further comprises bonding the expandable structure to the tubular string.

83. (new) The method according to claim 80, wherein the expanding step further comprises deforming the tubular string.

84. (new) The method according to claim 83, wherein the deforming step further comprises plastically deforming the tubular string.

85. (new) The method according to claim 83, wherein the deforming step further comprises expanding the tubular string.

86. (new) The method according to claim 80, wherein the expanding step further comprises expanding the expandable structure so that a minimum internal

dimension of the expandable structure is substantially equal to or greater than a minimum internal diameter of the tubular string.